

law. Very unpopular landlords, **or** persons who had become marked men by some quarrel with the country-side, were slaughtered with brutal glee. When the rebels entered Canterbury they asked their sympathisers among the citizens whether there were any traitors there. Two or three were named, drawn out and beheaded.¹ But there was no general massacre. A typical case, though only one out of many, was that of the Prior of Bury St. Edmunds. He had been noted for enforcing the rights and privileges of his abbey, and it was at the hands of the serfs of the abbey that he met his death. When Bury was seized by the rebels, he fled under the cover of darkness, and lay concealed in a wood near Newmarket. Someone betrayed his hiding-place to the mob at Mildenhall, a town eight miles to the north. The same mob had spared the lives of the other Bury monks, but such was their animosity against the Prior that they instantly marched off to Newmarket, to beat the wood where he lay. They caught him, and after leading him about with them, in cruel mockery for some hours, finally struck off his head.²

But personal hatred against the victims themselves was not the sole motive of murder. Connection with John of Gaunt seems to have been in itself dangerous. His property was destroyed with great vindictiveness, and his servants killed, not only at the Savoy, but throughout Kent and East Anglia ; special malice was shown against his valet, Thomas Haselden * for envy they had of the said Duke ; ' in Yorkshire the Duchess fled for her life ; in Leicester the Mayor called out the guard to preserve the Duke's property. To be connected with the law was no less dangerous than to be connected with the House of Lancaster. The ' men of the law ' seem to have been massacred, sometimes for no better reason than for belonging to that unpopular profession. Their services to society are never in any age very obvious to the vulgar, while the injuries they inflict are patent enough ; as instruments of oppression, they stand in the place of the tyrants who employ them and the legislators whose laws they enforce. But in

¹ JET. JR., 512.

² Wals., ii. 2 ; Powell, 17-20.

⁸ Wals., i. 462 ; *Mon. Eve.*, 24 ; Knighton, ii. 142-4 ; Froiss., ii. 471 j Powell, 31, 35, 44 ; *H. R.*, 512.